IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT court SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO WESTERN DIVISION :CIVIL ACTION NO. 1:00cv803 BRUCE WOODS, Petitioner, : Vs. WANZA JACKSON, Respondent. : . The deposition of BRUCE WOODS, Plaintiff herein, taken as on Cross-Examination by the Defendant, pursuant to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, notice and agreement of counsel to take deposition at the Warren Correctional Institute, State Route 63, Lebanon, Ohio 45036 on Wednesday, April 20, 2005, 10:30 a.m. before Shandy Ehde, a court reporter and Notary Public. 

## APPEARANCES:

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ON BEHALF OF THE PLAINTIFF:

GREGORY W. MEYERS, ESQ.

Ohio Public Defender's Office

8 East Long Street

Columbus, Ohio 43215

ON BEHALF OF THE DEFENDANT:

STUART A. COLE, ESQ.

JERRI FOSNAUGHT, ESQ.

Attorney General's Office

150 E. Gay Street

Columbus, Ohio 43215

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parties that the foregoing deposition may be taken at the time and place stated pursuant to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and notice and agreement of counsel to take deposition, that proof of the official character and qualification of the notary is waived; that the deposition may be taken in stenotypy by Shandy Ehde, Registered Professional Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of Ohio and transcribed by computer out of the presence of the witness and submission to the witness for examination and signature was waived.

	Case 1	:00-cv-00803-SAS-TSB D	ocument 70-2	Filed 05/13/2005	Page 3 of 63						
						3					
1		EXHIBITS									
2		L Affidavit			10						
3		Notice of Appea	1		31						
4		B Entry dismissin	g appeal		31						
5		Letter dated 2/	6/98		33						
6		Memorandum date	d 2/6/98		3 4						
7		5 Letter dated 5/	31/98		35						
8		7 Letter dated 5/	26/98		35						
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BRUCE WOODS

plaintiff herein, being first duly sworn as hereinafter certified, was examined and deposed as follows:

## CROSS-EXAMINATION

BY MR. COLE:

- Q. Morning, Mr. Woods. My name is Stuart

  Cole. I'm here representing the Ohio Attorney General's

  Office, representing the respondent and warden in this

  case. You're here with your attorney, Mr. Meyers, from

  the Ohio Public Defenders Office. We're here to take a

  deposition in the habeas corpus action which you brought

  in Case No. 1:00cv803; is that correct?
  - A. Yes, it is.
- Q. How have you prepared for this deposition today?
- A. Other than getting a letter saying that you was going to be here --
- Q. You haven't reread any of the pleadings filed by the parties then?
  - A. I read Mr. Perkins' deposition.
  - Q. You did read Mr. Perkins' deposition?
  - A. Yes.
- Q. Was there anything in Mr. Perkins' deposition that you felt was incorrect, disputed?
  - A. Maybe some minor things.

Q. Such as?

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- A. Just minor. I can't remember offhand.
- Q. Nothing relating to the sum and substance of your claims in this case?
  - A. I don't think so.
  - Q. Okay. How old are you, Mr. Woods?
  - A. Thirty-eight.
  - Q. You're from Cincinnati; is that correct?
  - A. Yes.
  - Q. Did you graduate from high school?
  - A. No.
    - Q. What was the last grade you completed?
- 13 A. Tenth.
  - Q. You can read and write?
- 15 A. Yes.
- Q. In your petition, correct me if I'm wrong,
  you're challenging your current conviction, that of
  aggravated burglary, robbery and kidnapping?
- 19 A. Yes.
- Q. Is this your first felony conviction?
- 21 A. No, sir.
- Q. What was your first felony conviction?
- A. I don't know.
- Q. Perhaps if I refresh your recollection,
  could it have been a robbery in December of 1985?

- That could be correct. Α. 1 2 Q. Do you recall whether or not you pled quilty or actually had a trial in that case? 3 I pled guilty. 4 Α. 5 Q. Do you remember who your attorney was? 6 Α. No. 7 Did you appeal that conviction? Q. I don't remember. 8 Α. 9 You may have? Ο. 10 No, I don't remember if I appealed it or 11 not. I don't think so, though. 12 Okay. What was your -- Have there been any 0. 13 other additional felony convictions except for that robbery conviction? 14 15 Α. Yes. 16
  - Q. What was that?
- 17 I had trafficking marijuana and receiving Α. 18 stolen property.
  - And when was that conviction? Q.
  - Α. Where was it at?
    - Ο. When?
  - '91. Α.

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- 23 Q. If I were to tell you it was August 13th, 24 1991, you wouldn't dispute that, I take it?
  - You said '91? Α.

I'm saying August 13th, 1991. 1 0. That sounds correct. 2 Α. Did you plead guilty or not guilty, if you 3 Q. recall? 4 5 Α. On the trafficking marijuana, I think it 6 went to trial. 7 Was it a jury trial? 0. 8 Α. Yes. 9 And you were found guilty. Who was your Q. 10 attorney in that trial? 11 I don't remember. Α. 12 Were these two attorneys in your first and Q. 13 second trial retained or appointed, if you recall? 14 Α. The second one was, he was appointed. The 15 first one was, too. 16 MR. MEYERS: Just to clarify, when you 17 say first and second, we're referencing the 18 '85 and '91. 19 MR. COLE: The '85 robbery and the 20 1991 trafficking marijuana. 21 MR. MEYERS: Okay. 22 The trafficking marijuana, did you appeal Q. 23 that conviction? 24 I don't remember. I doubt it, though. I Α.

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don't remember.

- Q. So if you did appeal it, you remember nothing whatsoever about the appeal; is that your testimony?
  - A. Yes.

- Q. Okay. That brings us to your current conviction. You were represented by Mr. Brian Perkins; is that correct?
  - A. Yes.
- Q. And how did it come that Mr. Perkins became your attorney?
- A. Well, he showed up at the Justice Center one day, and then he was like -- he talked to some of the family, they told him a little about the case. We got to talking and he became my lawyer.
- Q. Did somebody hire him or did he just show up one day?
- A. He talked to somebody and then he showed up. And after we talked about the case, he was like, this is what I need.
- Q. You say he talked to somebody. Who did he talk to?
  - A. I think it was my mother.
  - Q. So he talked to a member of your family?
- A. Right.
  - Q. A member of your family hired him?

- Q. Okay. And who paid him this \$3,000?
  - A. Family members.
  - Q. Well, you mentioned your mother. Anybody else pay him, that you know about?
    - A. Cousin might have paid.
  - Q. Okay. So your mother and cousin paid him about \$3,000 to the best of your knowledge?
    - A. Correct.
  - Q. And to the best of your knowledge, he was not fully paid?
    - A. No.

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- Q. And this \$5,000 was to represent you through trial?
  - A. Yes.
  - Q. Did he ever threaten to withdraw from representing you throughout the trial because he hadn't been paid?
    - A. No.
  - Q. Were you generally satisfied with his performance as defense counsel?
    - A. Most of the time, yes.
- Q. So you were willing to have him represent you on appeal then?
  - A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. I'm going to hand you what I've

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marked as Exhibit 1 --
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                                   (Exhibit No. 1 was marked
                                   for identification.)
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                Ο.
                      -- Deposition Exhibit 1, and ask if you
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        would read it. And then I'll ask you some questions.
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                Α.
                       (Witness complied.)
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                      Do you recognize this document?
                0.
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                Α.
                      Yes.
                      Do you recall executing that affidavit?
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                Q.
                      Signing it, yes.
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                Α.
                      Yes?
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                Q.
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                Α.
                      Yes.
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                      That is your signature on the bottom?
                Q.
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                Α.
                      Yes.
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                      Do you today still stand by everything
                Q.
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        that's in the affidavit?
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                Α.
                      Yes.
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                      So there's nothing in the affidavit that
                Q.
19
       you today believe not to be the truth?
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                      Not that I can see.
21
                      Okay. Let me ask you about line 5, "I was
                Q.
        advised of my appellate rights and I told my attorney to
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        file an appeal on my behalf."
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                      Who advised you of your appellate rights?
25
                      The judge.
                Α.
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- Q. Mr. Perkins also advise you of your appellate rights?
  - A. No.

- Q. Did you understand what the judge told you about your appellate rights?
  - A. I understood it. I could appeal.
- Q. So it's fair to say that this habeas corpus petition is not a claim that you were not informed of your right to appeal; is that a fair statement?
  - A. I don't understand the question.
- Q. I'm asking you, is it fair to say that this habeas corpus action, you're not claiming that you did not know that you had a right to appeal? You did know you had a right to appeal?
  - A. Yes, I did.
- Q. Okay. Continuing on line 5, you told your attorney to file an appeal on your behalf. Could you be specific as to what exactly you told Mr. Perkins?
- A. The judge said I had a right to appeal. He asked me did I understand it. I told him yes. He asked something else, and then I asked Mr. Perkins a question, and then he told the judge, he said, I'll speak to him about the appeal. So court was over, and then he said, he was like, right now we don't need to worry about the appeal, I'll be up to talk to you, because of the time he

had gave me.

So when he came back up, he just basically -- he had a white piece of paper, he showed me how much time I'll do. But he told me something about the guns, or the way he gave me the gun spec was wrong, some other things. It was like, I'm going to take care of the appeal, and he was going to get in touch with me.

- Q. Did you know how long you had to file an appeal?
  - A. Did I?
  - Q. Did you know?
  - A. No.
- Q. Do you know today how long you have to file an appeal if you're convicted?
  - A. The exact time?
  - Q. Yes, that's my question.
- A. No.
  - Q. Your answer was no?
- 19 A. Yes.
  - Q. How much did Mr. Perkins tell you that he was going to charge you for this appeal?
  - A. He didn't. He just said, I'm going to get in contact with you.
  - Q. Did you think he was going to do it for free?

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								14
1		Α.	The	e ap	peal?			
2		Q.	Yes	3.				
3		Α.	No.					
4		Q.	So	you	knew you	would have to	pay him?	
5		Α.	Yes	S .				
6		Q.	Or	som	ebody wou	ld have to pay	him?	
7		Α.	Yes	s. '	That we w	ould have to p	ay him	
8	some	ething.						
9		Q.	And	l yo	u never d	iscussed fees	at all?	
10		Α.	Not	at	that time	e, no.		
11		Q.	Oka	ıy.	He said	he would get i	n touch wit	.h
12	you?	)						
13		Α.	Yes	5.				
14		Q.	Get	in	touch wi	th you before	he would fi	.1e
15	an a	an appeal, after he would file an appeal, or how d						

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And did he subsequently come to see you?

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Q.

- 1 A. No.
  - Q. Have you seen Mr. Perkins since then?
- 3 A. Since --
- Q. I assume -- When was the last time you saw
- 5 Mr. Perkins?

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- 6 A. '96.
- 7 Q. You were convicted and sentenced; am I 8 correct?
  - A. Right.
  - Q. The conversation we were just talking about with Mr. Perkins, that was after you had just been sentenced?
    - A. Right after.
    - Q. It was in the courthouse?
    - A. Exactly.
    - Q. Was that the last time you saw Mr. Perkins?
- 17 A. No.
  - Q. Okay. When did you subsequently see him?
- 19 A. I saw him two times after that.
  - O. Where?
- A. Like maybe two weeks before I was about to get rode out to CRC, we sat down. He basically -- He said, I'm handling your appeal. He asked if I still wanted to appeal. I was like yes. He asked me, was the number still the same as far as calling my mother. I

said yes. He was like, I'm going to be in touch with you. At that time he had like a case that was going on, he told me, because he explained to me he couldn't stay that long.

- Q. This is, you were in the county jail then?
- A. Yes.

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- Q. This was two weeks after you were convicted?
  - A. Two to three weeks.
- Q. And he agreed to take your appeal, or he did, or you just again were talking?
- A. That's when I told him I wanted the appeal and he said he would take care of it.
- Q. Okay. At that time did you have any idea how much you'd have to pay him?
  - A. No.
  - Q. You didn't talk about money at all?
  - A. Me and him? No.
- Q. Did you talk about the issues you'd raised on appeal?
  - A. Yes.
  - Q. What issues did you want to have raised?
- A. I thought that he had -- When he said, what do I think about a trial, I told him basically I thought he had gave me too much time. He was saying that could

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be true, because he tried to get all the offenses rolled into one, but he was basically saying, right now it's just looking good on the gun spec. He said that was one of the main things he would be looking at.

Q. So you, yourself, had no specific issues you wanted to have raised on appeal?

MR. MEYERS: Well, I would object to any further inquiry. I don't think getting into what could be the privileged nature of the discussions between Bruce and Perkins about what did or didn't happen on the merits of that trial are a proper scope before this depo. I don't believe they're material or relevant to the questions at issue before the Federal Court.

MR. COLE: Okay. I was not getting into the merits of any issues, but asking him to identify specific issues, I believe is relevant. If he planned what he wanted to have raised or didn't want to have raised is very relevant as to the overall question if he wanted, in fact, to pursue an appeal.

MR. MEYERS: Well, I maintain the objection. I mean to ask Mr. Woods himself as a lay person, limited formal education,

your question, if I remember, was what he 1 wanted appealed, is perilously close to 2 inviting him to talk to you directly about 3 his own sense of whether the underlying 4 conviction was correct or incorrect on the 5 merits, which would entail his discussing --6 7 MR. COLE: Let me re-ask the question, and if you want to lodge the objection, feel 8 free. 9 10 MR. MEYERS: All right. 11 Q. Can you identify any specific issues that 12 you wanted to have raised on appeal? MR. MEYERS: Well, I object. 13 MR. COLE: I would ask the court 14 15 reporter to have, please have him answer the 16 question. (Court reporter instructed witness 17 18 to answer question.) MR. MEYERS: I, as counsel for 19 20 Mr. Woods, am advising him not to answer that 21 question at this time. 22 Are you accepting my advice? 23 THE WITNESS: Yes. 24 MR. MEYERS: That being said, before we 25 leave here today, if I can have a private

minute with him, we can perhaps revisit when we're together that question. But my objection stands.

(Court reporter certifies question.)

- Q. I believe you testified a few moments ago that you saw Mr. Perkins on two occasions after your sentencing?
  - A. Yes.

- Q. What was the second occasion?
- A. By that time I had made it to WCI, and me and another inmate were talking. I knew they had some information that he related to his mother but his mother again related it to his attorney. Come to find out his attorney was Brian Perkins. They called me back to court as a witness.
- Q. I'm not sure I just followed what you just said.
  - A. I was at WCI --

MR. MEYERS: Could I ask just for clarification? Explain, can you, in this answer what you mean when you say you were here at WCI and how that might relate to helping Mr. Cole understand the time frame involved. In other words, was WCI your first

parent institution? Why don't you explain that?

A. I had already left the county jail, went to receiving, did my 30 days at receiving. Thirty days, two weeks or something like that. I ended up here at WCI to start my time.

I was on the yard, talking to another inmate. He was telling me about how his brother was going through a robbery conviction, a robbery case, bank robbery case. I brought up another inmate's name that I was a cellmate with at the time. I was like, dude, you told me this dude didn't have nothing to do with it. But the detectives was expecting him. He told his mother. Brian Perkins happened to be his lawyer. And he asked me, would you go to court and explain what the dude told you.

- Q. So you testified in a trial where Brian Perkins was defense counsel for somebody; is that what you're saying?
  - A. Yes.

- Q. And you talked to Mr. Perkins at that time?
- A. Correct.
- Q. How did that come about? When did you speak with him?
  - A. When I went back to the county jail.

- He came to visit you a second time? 1 Ο. He came to visit me on that case. 2 Α. And this had been over 30 days after your 3 Q. 4 conviction? Α. Yes. You said 30 days, right? Yes. 5 6 0. What did you guys talk about? 7 He asked me, how did I know, how did I Α. know -- he gave me the dude's name and --8 Let me ask, did you and Mr. Perkins talk 9 about the status of your appeal? 10 11 Α. No. Your appeal didn't come up at all? 12 0. At the end of the -- As I testified, yes, 13 Α. Basically he was like, it takes time. 14 it came up. Did he tell you that he had filed an 15 Q. 16 appeal? 17 I believe so. Α. 18 Did he talk about how much you were going Q. to pay him? 19 20 At that time, no. Α. 21 Did you ever talk to Mr. Perkins about Q. 22 paying him for representing you?
  - Q. Did you ever talk to Mr. Perkins about representing you as appointed counsel?

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No.

- A. On the appeal?
- Q. Yes.

- A. No.
- Q. But you believed he was representing you at that time?
  - A. He said he was.
- Q. Did you ever talk to anybody in your family about paying Mr. Perkins a fee for pursuing an appeal on your behalf?
- A. Basically I just -- I let my mother and my aunt know if he asked for the money, let me know what it was so I could pay it back.
- Q. And did he ever tell you that he wanted money for an appeal?
- A. He -- They said he wasn't taking calls at that time.
  - O. So they were unable to reach him?
- A. No. When they did call, he was either out or busy or something.
- Q. So to the best of your knowledge, he was never paid by anybody to pursue an appeal?
  - A. Right.
- Q. Okay. Line 6 of your affidavit, "I told my attorney that I wanted to appeal and expected him to file the necessary appeal papers."

Tell me if I'm wrong, your response today is that Mr. Perkins said he would do that; is that what your testimony is?

A. Yes.

Q. Then line 8 says, "My trial counsel failed to file notice of appeal."

What's your basis for saying that?

- A. Are you asking, why did I say that?
- Q. What's the basis for that statement? How did you know that he never filed the notice of appeal?
- A. After I wrote the Public Defenders Office, they wrote me back, had me sign some paperwork. I thought no appeal was filed.
- Q. You're telling me that the only reason you believe that no appeal was filed is because the Public Defender told you; is that what you just testified to?
  - A. No.
  - Q. Okay.
- A. I'm saying this line that you're asking about, what I'm saying is, I agreed to this line but they're not my words.
- Q. You're saying the Public Defender wrote that line?
  - A. After he took my words about my appeal.
  - Q. So my question is, you agree with that

line?

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- A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. What is the basis for your belief that Mr. Perkins failed to file a notice of appeal?
- A. I just believe that he didn't. At that time, I believe no appeal was filed.
  - O. How about today?
- A. Well, I know now that an appeal was filed, but back then, I mean, I wasn't getting no legal mail, he wasn't accepting calls, so I honestly believed that.
- Q. Okay. In the habeas corpus petition you wrote, and I'm quoting, and I'll show it to you if you wish to see it, you make the statement, "Appointed counsel refused to file an appeal despite repeated requests." Now you said appointed counsel. Are you referring to Mr. Perkins? I'll show you.

Do you want me to show you what you wrote?

It's right here, highlighted in blue.

MR. MEYERS: When the other Public

Defenders lawyers worked for you, this is the actual document that started your federal habeas petition; all right?

THE WITNESS: (Witness nodded.)

MR. MEYERS: This is part of the habeas petition, so Mr. Cole is just asking you

about this language.

- A. The one that's highlighted?
- Q. I would like you to read that, and ask if that's a correct statement?
  - A. I wouldn't say "refuse." He never did refuse.
    - Q. So he never did refuse, so that's an incorrect statement? And the part about appointed counsel, I assume that's also incorrect; petitioner's appointed counsel (indicating)?
    - A. The part about him refusing, he never did refuse.
      - O. He never refused?
    - A. No, he just said -- He said, "I'll take care of it."
  - Q. Okay. How did you learn that there was no appeal filed?

MR. MEYERS: Can I call a quick time out?

(Short recess.)

A. After I contacted the Public Defenders

Office, everything they did, they would send me a copy of

it. And I don't know her name, but she had -- she sent

me a copy of the E-mail saying what they was doing, and

it said at the top, "No appeal has been filed."

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I --

- 0. So when you contacted the Public Defender, you thought you had had an appeal pending? I wasn't for sure. Α. Ο. What did you think? Honestly, I thought I didn't have an Α. appeal. You did not have an appeal? 0. Right. Α. So when did you first start to believe that Ο. you did not have an appeal? Α. For sure? When did I know I didn't have an appeal for sure? When did you begin to suspect that you didn't have an appeal? That's a good question. You're asking for Α. a specific date, time? Approximate time period that you began to Ο. suspect that you did not have an appeal pending?
  - A. I knew something was wrong when -- it was a person going to court with me at the same time, and I happened to see them on the news, they was talking about the appeal. And I hadn't gotten a letter or nothing, so
    - Q. When was this?
    - A. I don't know the approximate time. It had

to be when I was at Lucasville because I was watching TV and it was right there.

- Q. When were you in Lucasville?
- A. It had to be.
- Q. When were you in Lucasville?
- A. '98, '99.

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- Q. You contacted the Public Defender in February of '98?
  - A. I did?
  - Q. Correct?
  - A. Right.
- Q. And you were convicted in June of '96, am a correct?
  - A. Correct.
- Q. So my question again is, when did you begin to suspect that you, in fact, did not have an appeal?

  I'm not asking for a date, I'm asking for an approximate month, even season, if you want.
  - A. I'm not for sure.
- Q. So your testimony today is, is it fair to say that you have no idea whatsoever when you began to suspect that you didn't have an appeal pending?
- A. I knew that. I knew the fact that I wasn't getting any legal mail and everybody else was. When they called your name for legal mail and I kept getting passed

- over, I knew something was wrong. I also knew that when I would call home and I would say, did you call Mr. Perkins, they would say, he's not there, he's out of the office. I knew something was wrong.
  - O. So they said that pretty much from day one?
  - A. What?

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- Q. That they were, from day one they were telling you they were having no contact with Mr. Perkins?
- A. No. He would come and see me, but I'm saying once I got to the penitentiary
- Q. Once you were in the penitentiary after you were convicted, from then on you had no contact with Mr. Perkins?
  - A. Correct.
- Q. And your family had no contact with Mr. Perkins?
  - A. Correct.
- Q. So you began to suspect fairly soon that something might be going wrong then?
- A. I waited. I waited -- From the time I got to the penitentiary, I waited. Not because I wanted to.
- Q. Are we talking days, weeks, months? What are we talking about here?
- A. Months, maybe a year. Because I didn't, I didn't actually know what was going on until later on.

When I didn't understand it, basically I had just shut down. They called it depression, I'm guessing, if you want to call it that. I snapped out of it like, you know, there was a reason why you didn't know because you were sleeping all the time, you were just shut down. But I eventually woke up and I said, something ain't right. But as far as a date, I don't know. If I had to give a date, I would say '98.

- Q. Well, that would be after you contacted the Public Defender?
  - A. When did I contact them?
  - Q. February of '98.
  - A. That would be the year.
- Q. And prior to that you're saying you just weren't sure because you shut down; is that what you're saying?
  - A. Yes.

- Q. So throughout 1997, it's your testimony that you were uncertain whether or not you had an appeal or not?
- A. Well, I had saw Brian Perkins in '96, and he already told me that appeals take time, I'm going to take care of it. I mean he told me this out of his mouth.
  - Q. Now the people who were trying to call

30 1 Mr. Perkins, your mother and cousins? Family members. 2 Α. Family members? You had regular contact 3 0. with them? 4 5 Α. I could call home, yes, they would accept the call. 6 7 And you asked them, I assume, is there an Ο. appeal pending? 8 9 Α. No. Did you ever talk about your appeal with 10 Q. 11 them? 12 I asked them, what did Mr. Perkins say. Α. And what would they tell you? 13 0. 14 Α. We haven't talked to him. 15 Q. Would that -- Did that concern you? 16 Not at first. Α. Did it concern you after a couple months? 17 Q. 18 No. Α. 19 When did it start to concern you? Ο. 20 About Mr. Perkins? Α. 21 Yes. 0. 22 Α. When I wasn't getting no legal mail at all. 23 Did you ever contact anybody in the court Q. 24 to find out if you had an appeal pending?

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Α.

No.

Q. Why not?

- A. I didn't know you could. I mean, who would I write? The judge? I don't know.
- Q. Could you identify any one event that stands in your mind for when all of a sudden you realized, hey, I don't have an appeal pending?
- A. Probably when I, like I said, when I was watching TV and there was -- they was talking about her appeal and we was going to court at the same time.
- Q. And this was well before you contacted the Public Defender?
- A. It might have been a few months after, month or two after.
- Q. After you had already contacted the Public Defender?
  - A. No. When I saw it on TV.
- Q. That was a couple months after you were convicted? You tell me. I won't say another word.
- A. When I saw the fact that she was getting an appeal on TV, then I knew something was going on. So, again, I contacted the Public Defender. First I went to the law library, and basically they can't give you no law advice but get a Public Defender.
- Q. So several months before you contacted the Public Defender, you watched this thing on TV and you

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began to think, maybe I don't have an appeal; is that
 1
       what you're saying?
 2
 3
                Α.
                      Yes.
                      Did there ever come a time when you learned
                Q.
 4
       that a notice of appeal had in fact been filed by
 5
 6
       Mr. Perkins?
 7
                Α.
                      Yes.
                      When did you learn that?
 8
                Ο.
                      Maybe '4, '04.
 9
                Α.
10
                Q.
                      Within the last year?
                      Yes.
11
                Α.
                      Okay. Let me show you what I, I am marking
12
                Q.
       as Deposition Exhibit 2
13
                                   (Exhibit No. 2 was marked for
14
                                   identification.)
15
                      Have you seen this exhibit before?
16
                Ο.
17
                      Yes.
                Α.
                      When did you first see it?
18
                Q.
                      04.
19
                Α.
20
                Q.
                      And prior to 2004, you had no idea that
        this notice of appeal had been filed?
21
22
                Α.
                      No.
23
                      Okay.
                Q.
24
                                   (Exhibit No. 3 was marked for
```

identification.)

1 Ο. Let me show you now what I have marked as Deposition Exhibit 3. Have you seen this document 2 3 before? 4 Α. Yes. And when did you first see this document? 5 Q. 04. 6 Α. 7 Okay. You saw Exhibits 2 and 3 at the same 0. 8 time? I saw Exhibit 2 first. 9 Α. Who showed you these documents? 10 0. 11 Α. My attorney. Mr. Perkins? The Public Defender? Who are 12 Q. 13 we talking about? 14 Α. Mr. Lee. 15 Was the Public Defender who was Q. 16 representing you? 17 Α. (Witness nodded.) 18 Since these weren't known to you, I assume Ο. again that you never consulted with the Court of Appeals 19 in any way about this document or any appeal? 20 21 Α. No. 22 And you never asked any family member or Ο. 23 anybody else to check with the Court of Appeals, either, 24 about if you had an appeal pending.

(Exhibit No. 4 was marked for

identification.)

- Q. Okay. Let me show you what I'm marking as Deposition Exhibit 4, and ask if you could identify this document?
  - A. Yes.

- O. What is it?
- A. A letter I wrote to the Public Defenders
  Office.
- Q. Okay. Part of the letter, at least to me, is illegible. I don't know if you can help me with it or not. Let me read it to you and see if you can tell me what part I can't read.

You're saying, "I am what they call indigent. At this time I am in jail. I have, I think, 80 to a hundred years. I got that on May 30th, 1996."

Am I correct so far in what I've read?

- A. Yes.
- Q. Could you read the next line for me? It's, I, something, something, for you to give me a lawyer to serve on my appeal.
- A. May 30th, 1996. "I would like for you to give me a lawyer to work on my appeal. Can you help me?"
  - Q. You're saying "I would like"?
  - A. "For you."
  - Q. "To give me a lawyer to serve on my

appeal"?

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- A. "To work on my appeal."
- O. "Work"? Okay.

My understanding is that the Public

Defender responded fairly promptly by sending you what

I'm marking as Exhibit 5; is that correct?

A. Yes.

8 (Exhibit No. 5 was marked for identification.)

- Q. I take it you were satisfied with the speed of their response?
  - A. Yes.
- Q. My understanding is that you submitted the questionnaire again fairly promptly, you submitted that back to them. I don't want to know the specifics of what you said, but you communicated with them in a timely manner?
  - A. Yes.
- Q. At that point in time, did you believe that they were representing you?
  - A. The Public Defenders Office?
- Q. Yes.
- 23 A. No.
- Q. So you did not believe that they were going to at that point in time -- At that point in time you did

1 not believe that they were pursuing an appeal on your behalf in the Ohio courts? 2 3 Α. No. (Exhibit No. 6 was marked for 4 identification.) 5 Let me show you what I have marked as 6 Ο. Exhibit 6, which is a letter, at least part of a letter 7 that you received from Robert Lane of the Ohio Public 8 Defenders Office, and that's dated May 13th, 1998. 9 Is it fair to say that still at this time 10 11 you did not believe that the appeal was pending? 12 Α. Yes. 13 Yes, what? 0. 14 I did not believe an appeal was pending at Α. 15 this time. Were you concerned that from May --16 Q. February to May there had been no legal action filed on 17 your behalf? Did that concern you? 18 Did it concern me that they didn't file a 19 Α. legal action? 20 21 (Nodded.) 0. 22 No, it didn't concern me. He had wrote Α. 23 back, so I wasn't concerned. 24 (Exhibit No. 7 was marked for

identification.)

- Q. I'll show you now what I have marked as
  Deposition Exhibit 7, and that's a letter from Mr. Tom
  Wetterer, who was apparently taking over your
  representation on your motion for delayed appeal.
  Between May 26th and the end of August when your delayed
  appeal was finally filed. Did you believe that there was
  any litigation pending, or did you still believe it was
  in the research stage?
  - A. I don't understand the question.
- Q. Let me rephrase it. Mr. Wetterer ultimately filed a delayed appeal motion on your behalf in August of 1998; is that correct?
  - A. I quess.

- Q. Prior to the filing of this delayed appeal motion in August of 1998, you were aware of the fact that no appeal had been filed by the Ohio Public Defender; is that a correct statement?
  - A. Yes.
  - Q. And you were not concerned by the delay?
- A. I probably just didn't understand what was going on. The fact that he wrote me back after not getting no legal mail --
- Q. Are you aware of the fact that the Ohio Attorney General's Office in this habeas case has taken the position that your habeas corpus petition was not

timely filed?

- A. Yes.
- Q. I know you're not a lawyer, and if you have no understanding, feel free to say so, but what is your understanding of the statute of limitations, the time in which you must file a habeas corpus petition?

MR. MEYERS: I object. What possible material relevance is the question, especially as phrased, elicited from a lay person, his understanding of statute of limitations in jurisprudence?

MR. COLE: His understanding -- Well, again, we can debate this in front of a judge. That's what this whole case comes down to is the violation of the one-year statute of limitations. I want to know if he understood his duty to file in accordance with federal law.

MR. MEYERS: I object and reserve it.

You can go ahead and answer, if you can.

- A. What was the question again?

  (Question read by reporter.)
- A. I don't know.
- Q. You're saying you have no knowledge one way or the other; is that what "I don't know" means?

A. Yes.

Q. I'm through here. I don't know if you want to ask anything.

MR. MEYERS: If I can ask a few, maybe that will stop us from --

MR. COLE: Maybe I'll come up with something else.

MR. MEYERS: -- needing to go to an evidentiary hearing.

MR. COLE: Sure.

#### EXAMINATION

#### BY MR. MEYERS:

- Q. Bruce, do you remember whether or not when you first got picked up and locked up on this case, before trial did you have an appointed lawyer or did you get Perkins right away?
  - A. I had an appointed lawyer.
- Q. Did you personally have, at that time have any money or own anything that you could have sold for cash so you personally could have afforded a lawyer?
  - A. No.
- Q. How about after you got convicted and you were in need of an appeal; did you personally have any money in a bank anywhere, any kind of money or anything of value that you could have sold for cash so you

personally could have hired an appeal lawyer?

A. No.

2.0

- Q. Did your family or other -- whoever was trying to help you pay Perkins for trial, did they lead you to understand that they were willing to pay him for your appeal?
  - A. Yes.
- Q. Did Tom Wetterer, during the time he worked for you and represented you, ever show you what's been marked here today as Depo Exhibit 2 or 3?
  - A. No.
- Q. With respect to what's been marked here today as Depo Exhibit 1, would you clarify again, do you know who actually wrote those words?
  - A. Mr. Wetterer.
- Q. Okay. Did you understand -- When you signed it as an affidavit, what was your understanding when you signed it as an affidavit?
- A. To make sure that I read everything that he wrote down.
- Q. Okay. By the time you signed this affidavit, which the exhibit will teach us was, looks like the 18th day of August of '98; is that right?
  - A. Yes.
  - Q. Had Wetterer led you to understand or

believe that Perkins failed to file a notice of appeal?

A. No.

Q. Let me ask it again.

MR. COLE: He answered the question.

- Q. When you -- Mr. Cole had asked you to talk with him a bit about what is numbered line 8 on that thing.
  - A. Uh-huh.
- Q. "My trial counsel failed to file a notice of appeal." Was that the information you were receiving from Wetterer at the time, that there was no notice of appeal filed?
  - A. Yes.
  - Q. All right.

When Mr. Cole showed you the other, lengthier document that was the copy of your habeas petition, which you don't have right before you right now, but -- did you personally write the words in this habeas petition, by the way?

- A. No.
- Q. You remember signing it; you did sign the habeas petition, right?
  - A. Yes.
- Q. Were you relying on Wetterer to basically represent you and guide you as your counsel at the time?

A. Yes.

- Q. Did you -- You were showed Exhibits 4 and 5. Just for the record, by the way, what's marked here today as Exhibit 5, am I correct that that contains one, two, three, four, five, six different sheets of eight and a half by 11 papers stapled in the upper, left hand?
  - A. Right.
- Q. And does your handwriting appear anywhere on pages 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 of Exhibit 5?
  - A. Yes.
- Q. And is that the information you entered on a form that had been sent to you by the Public Defenders Office?
  - A. Yes.
- Q. Among the information completed, is there any information pertaining to your financial situation at the time in early '98?
  - A. Yes.
- Q. And at the time in early 1998, did you personally have cash or anything of value you could have sold to turn into cash to hire your own appellate lawyer?
  - A. No.
- Q. Throughout the time between when you first wrote your letter and get your first response back from the Public Defenders Office, in fact, if we look on

1 Exhibit 5 -- first on Exhibit 4 -- Do you, by the way, on Exhibit 4 did you see a date on that in your own 2 handwriting? 3 MR. COLE: The exhibits speak for 4 themselves. I would object to that question. 5 MR. MEYERS: I don't know how a cold 6 document could speak to handwriting. 7 MR. COLE: But there's a date on the 8 document. It's there. 9 MR. MEYERS: Well, do you see a date on 10 11 the document in your own handwriting? 12 THE WITNESS: No. MR. MEYERS: Okay. You don't happen to 13 14 have the envelope? 15 MR. COLE: (Indicating). MR. MEYERS: Is that the one? 16 17 record will speak for that. On Exhibit 4, as you look at it today, am I 18 correct for the record that's a single piece of eight and 19 20 a half by 11 paper that appears to contain a Xerox copy 21 of something in your handwriting; is that right? 22 Right. Α. 23 Q. And it also contains something at the very

top, the number 10/1, dash, the word "client," and some

letters circled along with the 2-6-98. Is any of that

24

your handwriting?

1.4

- A. No.
- Q. Okay. That is -- Did you testify that to your best recollection, that is the first letter you ever sent to the office of the Ohio Public Defender?
  - A. That I remember.
- Q. Okay. And then Exhibit 5, which we've talked about a minute ago, what date is typed, entered on that?
  - A. February the 6th, 1998.
- Q. Now from your fist -- and I think you told Mr. Cole you remember generally getting a response back pretty quick after the first letter you sent to the Public Defender?
  - A. Yes.
- Q. And over the course of time between your first response back from them and, say, the date you signed this affidavit, do you recall having other contact? And I think you saw -- what they marked, Mr. Cole, A.G., represented as 7 this morning, that's a letter from Wetterer. 6 is a letter from Lane; correct?
  - A. Yes.
- Q. So overall, were you left with the impression that the Public Defender was ignoring you or that they were responding?

A. Responding quickly.

- Q. And were you left with the impression once you realized you had no appeal pending, that you had to get that done on your own without a lawyer, or were you thinking the Public Defender was working towards that direction for you?
- A. I thought the Public Defender was working towards it.
- Q. Mr. Cole asked you several times in kind of different directions when you first -- if you could have, would you pinpoint a time when a light went off and you realized you didn't have an appeal. Do you remember those questions?
  - A. Yes.
- Q. Let me ask it this way. Generally speaking, do you remember whether or not your first letter to the Public Defender was mailed off by you shortly after you formed the understanding that there was something wrong with your appeal, or was it months and months after or what? Did -- Do you have any way of starting from this document they've marked here today as their Exhibit 4, knowing -- as you've said, that's your first writing to the Public Defender -- looking back in time in your memory to tell us how long before you might have sent that letter you realized there was something

wrong with your appeal?

- A. When I formed it in my head that something is wrong, I wrote the Public Defender, I'd say kind of quick.
  - Q. Okay. I have nothing further.

MR. COLE: Probably only one more question for you, sir, based on Mr. Meyers questions.

#### RECROSS-EXAMINATION

### BY MR. COLE:

- Q. Did I hear you say that as far as you're concerned, that the Public Defender responded quickly in terms of preparing an appeal for you?
  - A. I say he responded to my letters.
- Q. Do you feel that they responded quickly in terms of filing a delay of motion of appeal in the filing courts?
  - A. You're saying, do I feel like --
- Q. Do you feel that the Ohio Public Defender pursued an appeal on your behalf in the Ohio courts in a quick, timely manner from the time you contacted them in February till the time they filed the appeal in August?
  - A. I don't know.
- Q. You've never lodged any complaints about them not pursuing your appeal in a timely manner; is that

			47
1	a fair statem	ent?	
2	Α.	Yes.	
3		MR. MEYERS: Did you say no or yes?	
4		MR. COLE: He said yes.	
5	Q.	Yes, you've never complained?	
6	Α.	Yes.	
7	Q.	Yes?	
8	Α.	Yes, I've never complained.	
9	Q.	Okay. Thank you very much for your time	•
10		MR. MEYERS: Thank you.	
11			
12		(Signature waived.)	
13		David Newman	
14			
15		(Deposition concluded.)	
16			
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CERTIFICATE

2 STATE OF OHIO :

3 : SS

### COUNTY OF CLERMONT:

I, Shandy Ehde, court reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of Ohio, do certify that before the giving of his deposition, BRUCE WOODS was by me first duly sworn to depose the truth, the whole truth, nothing but the truth; that the foregoing deposition was given at said time and place by notice and agreement of counsel, that said deposition was taken in stenotypy and transcribed by computer under my supervision, and submission to the witness for signature was expressly waived.

I certify that I am neither a relative of, nor attorney for any of the parties to this cause, nor relative or employee of any of their counsel, and have no interest whatever in the result of this action.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand and seal at Cincinnati, Ohio this 4th day of May, 2005.

Shandy Ehde

Notary Public - State of Ohio

My Commission Expires:

August 27, 2007

STATE OF OHIO	)		
	) SS:	AFFIDAVIT OF BI	RUCE WOODS
COUNTY OF SCIOTO	1		

- I, Bruce Woods, being duly sworn according to law, state the following:
- I am indigent and incarcerated at the Southern Ohio Correctional Institution.
- I am the defendant in the matter-captioned State of Ohio v. Bruce Woods, Hamilton Common Pleas Case No. B9601386. I pled not guilty, and was convicted following a jury trial.
- 3. I am a layman, unskilled in legal practice and unfamiliar with legal procedure.
- 4. I did not waive my right to a direct appeal of my conviction.
- 5. I was advised of my appellate rights and told my attorney to file an appeal on my behalf.
- 6. I told my attorney that I wanted to appeal and expected him to file the necessary appeal papers.
- I did not file a notice of appeal because I thought my attorney had filed a notice of appeal in my case.
- 8. My trial counsel failed to file a Notice of Appeal.
- 9. I did not receive any correspondence from my attorney about my appeal. After my sentencing, my trial attorney refused my phone calls, and calls made by my people.
- 10. When I arrived in prison I became depressed about doing a lot of time and felt suicidal. I lost hope in the system.
- Other inmates told me that it takes several months before the transcript is filed and can take years for an appeal to be decided. I expected that the appeal would take years to be decided so it took me a long time before I became concerned about not hearing about a ruling on my case.
- When I did learn that no appeal had been filed by my attorney for my conviction, I contacted the Office of the Ohio Public Defender and asked for assistance in filing a delayed appeal.

Further Affiant sayeth naught.

BRUCE WOODS

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 18th day of August 1998.

1073537\1ngo01Ldvc

Allen Bruge Notary Public—Ohig My Commission Expline February 1999

NOTARY PUBLIC

PENCAD Baycome, N. J.



# IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS CRIMINAL DIVISION .HAMILTON COUNTY, OHIO

C960545

STATE OF OHIO.

Case No.: B9600345

Plaintiff-Appellee,

(Judge O'Connor)

VS.

NOTICE OF APPEAL

**BRUCE WOODS** 

Defendant-Appellant

Notice is hereby given that Dale Lusby, Defendant-Appellant, hereby appeals to the First Appellate Judicial District, from the judgment and sentence of this Court entered on this cause on June 14, 1996.

ORIG COMP. PARTIES, SUMMONS

( ) CERT MAIL ( ) SHERIFF ( ) WAVE

( ) PROCESS SERVER NONE

CLERKS FEES

SECURITY FOR COST

DEPOSITED BY 6187/

FILING CODE 4-105

Respectfully Submitted,

Bryan R. Perkins (0061871)
Attorney for Defendant-Appellant
23 East Seventh Street

Suite 1116

Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

(513)929-4449

# CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and accurate copy of the foregoing Notice of Appeal was served upon the Hamilton County Prosecutor's Office by personal service on this day of July, 1996.

Bryan R. Perkins





(33)

# IN THE COURT OF APPEALS FIRST APPELLATE DISTRICT OF OHIO HAMILTON COUNTY, OHIO

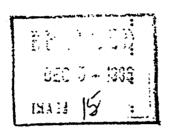
STATE OF OHTO

Appellee,

vs.

BRUCE WOODS

Appellant.



APPEAL NO: C-960545 TRIAL NO. B-9600345

ENTRY DISMISSING APPEAL

This cause came on to be considered upon the appeal from the trial court, and

The Court, being fully advised, sua sponte dismisses the appeal for failure of the appellant to show good cause why he has failed to comply with the Ohio Rules of Appellate Procedure, to wit: the transcript of proceedings was due to be filed on 11/19/96.

It is further Ordered that a certified copy of this judgment shall constitute the mandate to the trial court pursuant to Rule 27, Ohio Rules of Appellate Procedure.

TO THE CLERK:

(COPIES SENT TO ALL COUNSEL)

ENTER UPON THE JOURNAL OF

THE COURT /2

PER ORDER OF THE COURT.

BY:

Presiding Judge

EXHIBIT
Deposition

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P.O. P.O. Y. SUP. 9. ....

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PENCAD-Bayonne, N. J.

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\*SOUTHERN OHIO CORRECTIONAL FACILITY PO BOX 45699 LUCASVILLE, OH 45699-0001 DRC 1459



Office of the Ohio Public Defender 8 East Long Street Columbus, Ohio 43215-2998 (614) 466-5394 FAX NUMBER: (614) 728-8091

DAVID H. BODIKER State Public Defender

## MEMORANDUM

DATE:

February 6, 1998

TO:

Ohio Inmate

FROM:

Intake Division

RE:

Request for Assistance

This will acknowledge receipt of your request for legal assistance. It is the duty of this office to provide legal representation to indigent inmates who are unlawfully imprisoned, provided their claims have arguable merit.

Please complete and return the enclosed questionnaire and financial statement. It you have any other documents or information pertaining to your claims, you may send them also. Upon receipt of the questionnaire and financial statement, this office will review your claims for merit.

Return the documents to:

Intake Division
Office of the Ohio Public Defender
8 East Long Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

We look forward to hearing from you.



# OFFICE OF THE OHIO PUBLIC DEFENDER 8 East Long Street, 11th Floor Columbus, Ohio 43215

2-13.28

Please answer each question below as completely and accurately as possible. If you need help, contact je law clerk at your institutional law library. If you need more space, attach additional pages.

Return the completed questionnaire, together with copies of any papers or documents you have pertaining to your case, and this office will investigate your claims. If the attorney assigned to your case feels an interview is necessary, you will be notified.

Name: Bruce INCOS	OPDC No.: 98-1640				
Institution Number: <u>పైద ర</u> ్యం	Date of birth: 10 19 1.6				
Institution: S.O.C.F	Soc. Sec. No.: 390 - 70 - 3500				
County of conviction: HAMILTON	Case number: <u>B9601396</u>				
Name of the attorney who represented you:	98-66-0276				
Any aliases you have used:	98.0000				
Any co-defendants in your case: Kelly Moon Ray SHAWH Riggins					
	CLOSE				
How were you convicted? [Place an "X" in the appropriate box. Cho					
l entered a plea of "guilty."	as tried by a jury.				
	as tried by a judge, without a jury.				
I was convicted of: A S. Burglasy, Asy Robbery, Kinnappi-					
The term of my sentence is minimum <u>(st</u> to maximum <u>(20</u> ; or definite					
Date of conviction: 3-31-96 Date delivered to the state: 6-25-96 Parole/EDS: 2018					
Did you appeal your conviction to the court of appeals? Yes V No					
Did you appeal your conviction to the Ohio Supreme Court?	Yes No				
Have you filed any other actions challenging your conviction?	Yes No If so, list the court, case				
number and nature of the proceedings:					
Do you have any action pending at the present time? Tyes W No. If so, list the court, case number, type of					
action, and the name of your attorney, if you are represented:					
	PENGAD-Bayonne, N. 4				
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NOTE: If you are not represented by couns to represent yourself while this office inve	el, you must continue				
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#45489

# OFFICE OF THE OHIO PUBLIC DEFENDER 8 East Long Street, 11th Floor Columbus, Ohio 43215

### FINANCIAL STATEMENT

efore this office can represent you, you MUST COMPLETELY FILL OUT this form and return it to the above address. If a question is not applicable to you or your situation, write N/A in the blank space.

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. Case 1:00-cv-0	00803-SAS-TSB	Document 70-2	Filed 05/13/2005	Page 60 of 63
		ASSETS CON'T		
List all other property of val jewelry, boats, musical instr NONE:	ruments, and the value t	hereof. If none, write	s NA	
		EXPENSES		
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#45489

CASE ATTORNEY

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Eligible for Ohio Public Defender Services Yes 1	No	
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#45489	CASE ATTORNEY	<del></del>



Office of the Ohio Public Defender 8 East Long Street Columbus, Ohio 43215-2998 (614) 466-5394 FAX NUMBER: (614) 752-5167

DAVID H. BODIKER State Public Defender

May 13, 1998

Mr. Bruce Woods #329-889 Southern Ohio Correctional Facility P.O. Box 45699 Lucasville, Ohio 45699

Dear Mr. Woods:

This is in response to your recent request for assistance from this office. I am reviewing your case in order to determine whether or not we can represent you in court.

Sincerely

Robert L. Lane

. Chief Appellate Counsel

RLL:mjb/Enclosures/#67561

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Office of the Ohio Public Defender 8 East Long Street Columbus, Ohio 43215-2998 (614) 466-5394 FAX NUMBER: (614) 752-5167

DAVID H. BODIKER State Public Defender

May 26, 1998

Mr. Bruce Woods #329-889 Southern Ohio Correctional Facility P.O. Box 45699 Lucasville, Ohio 45699

Dear Mr. Woods:

Your case has been reassigned to me for filing a motion for delayed appeal.

Shicerely

Thomas R. Wetterer, Jr.

Assistant State Public Defender

TRW:nir\68654

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